UID in Action
Unique Identification of Items

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics

Program Managers Workshops

Our series of UID Program Manager Workshops for ACAT 1D programs began with an initial offering for aviation programs on March 8-9. Representatives from 13 of these program offices attended the workshop. Nine major contractors also participated to present their corporate UID strategies to the programs. The main focus was providing guidance to the programs for completing their UID program plans in anticipation of the June 2005 deadline for submission to the UID Program Office. This workshop will serve as the model for future PM Workshops scheduled for Q2 2005 for the Land and Sea ACAT 1D programs.

Final DFARS Rule

The final DFARS rule for UID will be published in the Federal Register on April 22, 2005.

2005 U Connect Conference
Connecting U to the World of Standards EAN.UCC System, UCCnet, EPCglobal US, RosettaNet

Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, June 7-9, 2005
Grapevine, Texas
www.uc-council.org

Standards Developments

Robert Leibrandt

Standards continue to progress. The 3rd draft of the UID Standardization Agreement (STANAG) is being developed for review by the NATO Asset Tracking Working Group during their next meeting April 19-22 . Reaching consensus for a single STANAG-defined approach to item identification and tracking within NATO will provide for reduced costs and greater utility as international suppliers standardize on the UID construct using a 2-D data matrix as described in our policies and guides. Bar code imaging devices can be used more universally in coalition operations and data quality will be enhanced.

In March, the ISO/IEC JTC1 Subcommittee 31, Working Group 2 voted unanimously for our proposal and forwarded a revised ISO 15434 that would add a Text Element Identifier (TEI) format code to ISO/IEC JTC1 Subcommittee 31 for a Committee Draft (CD) Ballot. **The SC31 CD Ballot closes July 5**. Assignment of a TEI format code will enable the aerospace sector to use ISO 15434 and creates a truly international semantics standard. The CD Ballot is the 2nd of 4 votes that must be completed to revise an International Standard . Final International acceptance of the proposal allows for bridging all of the primary industry sectors.

This modification to ISO 15434 is a significant step forward for our standards efforts. Ballot resolution comments were not substantive, indicating less technical opposition than might have been expected;

however, there is still significant personal & political opposition that will continue to require the Defense community to engage proactively in this process.

On March 31 we presented the status of UID efforts in ISO and the rapid adoption across aerospace to the Air Transport Association (ATA) Spec2000 Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC) Task Force. After follow-on discussion the task force directed a number of its members, including several of the most staunch supporters of UID, to propose revisions to ATA Spec 2000 and the Common Support Data Dictionary (CSDD). The intent of the revisions is to make it clear that the UID alternative to traditional ATA Spec 2000 is not just a US DoD initiative, but rather an internationally recognized approach. This will encourage suppliers with even minimal US DoD sales to use UID throughout their companies. Greater international and commercial acceptance lead to a greater return on investment for DoD suppliers.

MIL-STD-130: the DoD Guide and emerging policy form a part of MIL STD 130L, Change 1, only to the extent that the policies and guidance are specified directly in MIL STD 130L, Change 1. They are intended to provide the user of MIL STD 130L, Change 1, with guidance, insight and instructions for meeting the requirements and their provisions do not constitute contractual requirements.